

English 261: British Literature I
Professor Francus
Tuesdays and Thursdays, 11:30-12:45
Fall 2021



Early British culture permeates our society, as films and television programs like *Beowulf*, *Game of Thrones*, *Lord of the Rings* make evident. Shakespeare's works circulate in our culture in their original and adapted forms, onstage and screen (*10 Things I Hate About You*, *Shakespeare in Love*, *King Lear*, *Ophelia*), as do stories about King Henry VIII and Queen Elizabeth I (*The Tudors*, *Reign*, *Elizabeth*). We see seventeenth-century British pirate culture in the *Pirate of the Caribbean* movies and television shows like *Black Sails*; the film industry produces versions of *Gulliver's Travels* and *Robinson Crusoe* (like *The Martian* and *Cast Away*) with regularity.

By studying early British literature, not only will students in English 261 understand British literature, culture, and history, but they will also shed light on their own cultural experience.

English 261 fulfills the historical breadth requirement for English majors, the GEF Arts & Creativity distribution requirement.